

CLAIMS

SUB A1

1 1. Method for operating an account payable computing
2 system, comprising the steps of:

3 preprocessing electronic invoices received from a
4 vendor to identify duplicate invoices;

5 introducing invoices not identified as duplicate
6 invoices into an accounts payable data base; and

7 rejecting invoices identified as duplicate invoices
8 back to said vendor without introducing said duplicate
9 invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 2. A method for operating a computing system, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 grabbing an inbound EDI invoice file from a vendor
4 before it is input to an accounts payable database;

5 auditing said inbound EDI invoice file for a duplicate
6 invoice item;

7 upon determining said inbound EDI invoice is a
8 duplicate, creating a duplicate invoice transaction
9 back to said vendor; and

10 posting to said accounts payable database only those
11 invoices determined not to be duplicates.

1 3. The method of claim 2, said auditing step comprising
2 the further steps of:

3 first sorting said inbound EDI invoice against an
4 accounts payable production table for same vendor and
5 same vendor invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same
7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same
9 items billed on purchase order;

10 fourth sorting hits from said third sorting to identify

11 said inbound EDI invoice as a duplicate invoice if it
12 contains an item having a net sum greater than zero.

SUB A2

1 4. Method for operating a computing system responsive to
2 receipt of an electronic input invoice from a vendor,
3 comprising the steps of:

4 grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an
5 accounts payable database;

6 identifying previously received invoices from said
7 vendor having the same vendor invoice identifier;

8 identifying said previously received invoices having
9 the same vendor invoice identifier any items
10 corresponding to items on said input invoice;

11 calculating the net sum of items on said input invoice
12 having corresponding items on said previously received
13 invoices;

14 for an input invoice having an item with a net sum
15 greater than zero, communicating a duplicate invoice
16 rejection message back to said vendor; and

17 for an input invoice having no item with a net sum
18 greater than zero, posting said input invoice to said
19 accounts payable database.

1 5. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for processing electronic
4 input invoices from a vendor, said method steps comprising:

5 preprocessing said input invoices to identify duplicate
6 invoices;

7 introducing invoices not identified as duplicate
8 invoices into an accounts payable data base for
9 payment; and

10 rejecting invoices identified as duplicate invoices
11 back to said vendor without introducing said duplicate
12 invoices into said accounts payable data base for
13 payment.

1 6. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a

3 machine to perform method steps for operating a computing
4 system responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice
5 from a vendor, said method steps comprising:

6 grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an
7 accounts payable database;

8 identifying previously received invoices from said
9 vendor having the same vendor invoice identifier;

10 identifying said previously received invoices having
11 the same vendor invoice identifier any items
12 corresponding to items on said input invoice;

13 calculating the net sum of items on said input invoice
14 having corresponding items on said previously received
15 invoices;

16 for an input invoice having an item with a net sum
17 greater than zero, communicating a duplicate invoice
18 rejection message back to said vendor; and

19 for an input invoice having no item with a net sum
20 greater than zero, posting said input invoice to said
21 accounts payable database.

1 7. An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable
3 program code means embodied therein for operating a
4 computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic
5 input invoice from a vendor, the computer readable
6 program means in said article of manufacture
7 comprising:

8 computer readable program code means for causing a
9 computer to effect grabbing said input invoice before
10 it is input to an accounts payable database;

11 computer readable program code means for causing a
12 computer to effect identifying previously received
13 invoices from said vendor having the same vendor
14 invoice identifier;

15 computer readable program code means for causing a
16 computer to effect identifying said previously received
17 invoices having the same vendor invoice identifier any
18 items corresponding to items on said input invoice;

19 computer readable program code means for causing a
20 computer to effect calculating the net sum of items on
21 said input invoice having corresponding items on said
22 previously received invoices;

23 computer readable program code means for causing a
24 computer to effect for an input invoice having an item
25 with a net sum greater than zero, communicating a
26 duplicate invoice rejection message back to said
27 vendor; and

28 computer readable program code means for causing a
29 computer to effect for an input invoice having no item
30 with a net sum greater than zero, posting said input
31 invoice to said accounts payable database.

1 8. An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable
3 program code means embodied therein for processing
4 electronic input invoices from a vendor, the computer
5 readable program means in said article of manufacture
6 comprising:

7 computer readable program code means for causing a
8 computer to effect preprocessing said input invoices to
9 identify duplicate invoices;

10 computer readable program code means for causing a
11 computer to effect introducing invoices not identified
12 as duplicate invoices into an accounts payable data
13 base for payment; and

14 computer readable program code means for causing a
15 computer to effect rejecting invoices identified as
16 duplicate invoices back to said vendor without
17 introducing said duplicate invoices into said accounts
18 payable data base for payment.

1 9. A computing system responsive to receipt of an
2 electronic input invoice from a vendor, comprising:

3 means for grabbing said input invoice before it is
4 input to an accounts payable database;

5 means for identifying previously received invoices from
6 said vendor having the same vendor invoice identifier;

7 means for identifying said previously received invoices
8 having the same vendor invoice identifier any items
9 corresponding to items on said input invoice;

10 means for calculating the net sum of items on said
11 input invoice having corresponding items on said
12 previously received invoices;

13 means, responsive to an input invoice having an item
14 with a net sum greater than zero, for communicating a
15 duplicate invoice rejection message back to said
16 vendor; and

17 means, responsive to an input invoice having no item
18 with a net sum greater than zero, for posting said
19 input invoice to said accounts payable database.

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D1